



MI-CW3308

Michigan Crop Weather

August 18, 2008

Cool and Dry

Six days were suitable for fieldwork during the week ending August 17, according to the USDA, NASS, Michigan Field Office. Precipitation varied from 0.02 inches in the eastern Upper Peninsula and the west central Lower Peninsula to 0.34 inches in the northeastern Lower Peninsula. Average temperatures ranged from 3 degrees below normal in the southwestern Lower Peninsula to 2 degrees above normal in the eastern Upper Peninsula. Temperatures were on the cool side this past week and dry conditions remained as rainfall was very light. Crops were in need of a good soaking rain. A farmer in the west central reported, “Corn and soybeans on lighter ground are showing signs of the dry weather effects. We have only had a trace of rain in the last week.” Some areas received light rain but not a meaningful quantity. “Nuisance showers almost everyday have made it hard to make hay and combine, but the soils are still getting very dry,” a farmer in the northwest reported.

Field Crops

Farmers in many areas were anxious for rain to boost crop growth and relieve the dry soils across the State. **Corn** was mainly in the dough stage, and the condition varied depending on the level of moisture. On the lighter soils, the crop appeared to be stressed from the dry conditions. **Soybeans** have bloomed and most have set pods. There were reports of moisture stress on the lighter soils. The crop needs continued monitoring for pests. **Alfalfa** regrowth has been slow and short due to the dry circumstances. Second and third cutting continued, but light showers made hay harvest difficult in some areas. **Dry beans** have bloomed for the most part and were setting pods. **Sugarbeets** continued in good condition. Harvest of **oats** continued.

Fruit

Apples ranged from 2.5 to 3 inches in the southwest. Growers continued to pick Jerseymac and early summer apple varieties across the State. **Blueberry** harvest continued; demand for pick your own and ready picked blueberries remained excellent. **Peaches** continued to size well where there was adequate moisture; harvest of Red Haven peaches began at most farms in the southwest and west central. **Pears** grew to 2.5 inches in diameter; sooty blotch and flyspeck pests were a concern. **Plums** continued to size and color nicely, as most were 1.5 inches in diameter; harvest began in the west central and continued in the southeast. **Raspberry** harvest of fall bearing varieties continued on a few farms in the southwest. Insect pests were reported in new **strawberry** plantings in the southwest and southeast. **Tart cherry** harvest neared completion in the northwest and was completed in the west central. Tart and **sweet cherry** leaf drop due to cherry leaf and bacterial spot infections subsided in the southwest and southeast. In the northwest, powdery mildew was found in **grape** clusters and on foliage.

Vegetables

Vegetable quality fared well due to the cooler temperatures, but farmers across the State were concerned about the lack of moisture in the soil. **Cabbage** harvest continued with reports of an overall good crop, despite some injury on low-lying fields. Some transplanted fields in the southeast were affected by black rot. **Cauliflower** looked good, but growth was slower than normal due to dry conditions. On muck soils, **celery** harvest continued at full speed. **Watermelon** and **muskmelon** harvest was well underway. **Winter squash** and **gourds** were beginning to color. **Peppers** looked good with uniform and good sized fruit. **Pumpkins** had fruits showing in most fields. Prospects seemed good for an excellent **onion** harvest this year; however fields subject to early summer flooding were not likely to fare well. **Cucumbers** for pickles producers were applying preventive sprays for diseases. Processing **tomato** harvest began and market tomatoes were in sufficient supply with good quality. **Potatoes** continued to be harvested for fresh market and processing. **Sweet corn** harvest continued, with generally good yields, despite some reductions on low-lying soils.

Soil moisture for week ending 08/17/08

Stratum	Very short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Topsoil	29	33	36	2
Subsoil	21	33	45	1

Crop condition for week ending 08/17/08

Crop	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
All Hay	4	11	32	42	11
Barley	1	12	21	61	5
Corn	5	10	29	37	19
Dry beans	6	6	23	51	14
Oats	0	5	17	55	23
Pasture	8	28	30	29	5
Soybeans	4	11	27	42	16

Crop progress for week ending 08/17/08

Crop	This week	Last week	Last year	5-year average
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
All hay, second cutting	88	82	94	87
All hay, third cutting	39	28	31	33
Blueberries, harvested	75	58	85	77
Corn, dough	66	40	67	48
Corn, dent	10	0	15	10
Dry beans, blooming	97	81	98	97
Dry beans, setting pods	75	57	91	81
Dry beans, turning leaves	3	NA	6	9
Oats, harvested	74	48	87	74
Peaches, harvested	38	35	50	36
Potatoes, harvested	17	14	5	NA
Soybeans, setting pods	92	77	91	82
Tart cherries, harvested	99	97	99	99

Michigan Weather Summary for Week Ending 08/17/08 ¹

Station	Temperature			Cumulative growing degree days ²			Precipitation					
	Maximum	Minimum	Departure from normal	2008	2007	Normal	This week	Last two weeks	Last four weeks	Since April 1	Normal	
											Since April 1	For month
Ironwood	86	37		1,356	1,773		0.16	0.31	1.26	12.51		
Marquette	86	44		1,273	1,691		0.00	0.12	0.99	13.92		
Stephenson	84	43		1,642	1,870		0.46	0.53	1.70	14.71		
Western UP	88	34	-1	1,398	1,763	1,437	0.17	0.28	1.32	12.53	14.60	3.69
Cornell	87	46		1,496	1,820		0.00	0.11	1.12	12.63		
Sault St Marie	84	52		1,325	1,633		0.03	0.16	1.39	12.28		
Eastern UP	89	42	2	1,318	1,652	1,247	0.02	0.13	1.22	13.10	13.77	3.53
Beulah	80	49		1,747	1,952		0.09	0.19	1.88	17.05		
Lake City	85	46		1,681	1,859		0.08	0.55	1.37	18.20		
Old Mission	90	49		1,677	1,842		0.00	0.06	0.29	10.20		
Pellston	82	45		1,592	1,779		0.00	0.54	1.87	13.60		
Northwest	90	44	0	1,625	1,818	1,624	0.06	0.34	1.10	13.88	12.97	3.11
Alpena	84	47		1,663	1,832		0.00	0.93	1.01	14.00		
Houghton Lake	84	45		1,711	1,859		0.19	0.57	1.06	15.28		
Rogers City	85	48		1,610	1,879		0.26	0.94	1.40	15.89		
Northeast	85	45	-1	1,666	1,841	1,575	0.34	1.03	1.50	15.14	13.02	3.12
Fremont	81	47		1,850	2,057		0.00	0.70	0.72	12.64		
Hart	83	45		1,766	1,950		0.00	1.04	1.04	15.07		
Muskegon	79	50		1,830	2,097		0.07	0.85	0.91	12.59		
West Central	83	44	-2	1,786	1,997	1,775	0.02	0.75	0.84	15.42	13.13	3.60
Alma	87	51		1,963	2,161		0.00	0.54	1.52	9.79		
Big Rapids	82	48		1,869	1,934		0.12	0.48	1.50	12.18		
Central	87	48	-1	1,895	2,041	1,847	0.15	0.72	1.89	10.89	14.06	3.64
Bad Axe	84	53		1,880	1,995		0.00	1.28	4.22	17.05		
Pigeon	84	48		1,812	1,911		0.00	1.11	1.75	10.90		
Saginaw	85	52		1,997	2,151		0.10	1.24	2.67	13.58		
Standish	85	50		1,768	1,915		0.50	1.35	3.35	13.90		
East Central	85	48	-2	1,844	1,997	1,835	0.19	1.34	2.91	13.41	12.80	2.93
Fennville	80	49		1,855	2,065		0.00	0.86	0.97	17.44		
Grand Rapids	85	54		2,136	2,349		0.00	0.59	0.60	16.03		
Holland	83	51		2,123	2,280		0.00	0.77	0.77	18.03		
South Bend, IN	84	51		2,185	2,438		0.00	0.69	0.75	11.61		
Watervliet	82	51		2,008	2,244		0.03	0.76	1.05	14.75		
Southwest	85	45	-3	2,029	2,231	1,993	0.03	0.66	0.90	16.20	14.79	3.18
Belding	84	48		1,902	2,065		0.25	0.72	0.91	10.52		
Coldwater	85	48		2,017	2,125		0.00	0.30	0.30	12.32		
Lansing	84	50		2,065	2,195		0.56	0.70	0.79	12.12		
South Central	85	48	-2	1,997	2,162	1,970	0.13	0.58	0.96	12.71	14.69	3.36
Detroit	87	57		2,276	2,377		0.00	0.14	0.43	10.52		
Flint	86	48		2,107	2,154		0.00	0.88	1.77	11.80		
Romeo	85	53		2,002	2,089		0.20	0.73	1.59	12.20		
Tipton	85	50		2,052	2,152		0.00	0.16	0.18	16.03		
Toledo, OH	86	53		2,247	2,330		1.07	1.08	1.11	15.74		
Southeast	87	47	-1	2,067	2,197	1,957	0.17	0.62	1.35	14.07	14.17	3.12

¹ Issued by the USDA, NASS, Michigan Field Office in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Commerce, Michigan State University's Cooperative Extension Service, Agricultural Meteorologist, Department of Geography, and Crop Advisory Team ALERTS.

² Growing degree days (GDD) is the sum of daily mean temperatures minus 50 per day, 86 maximum and 50 minimum. The GDD is accumulative from April 1.